

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, UR

SUBJECT:SOVIET MAYORS DELEGATION

REF: STATE 156602

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET MAYORS DELEGATION DEPARTED US WEDNESDAY JULY 16 AFTER SUCCESSFUL 12 DAY VISIT TO US, ARRANGED BY DEPT IN COOPERATION WITH US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS (COM). SOVDEL ATTENDED COM CONVENTION IN BOSTON AND MET WITH CITY OFFICIALS IN HOUSTON, DALLAS, NEW ORLEANS, AND NEW YORK CITY. IN WASHINGTON, SOVDEL MET WITH DEPT OFFICERS AND STAFF OF SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL (SCI). THROUGHOUT STAY SOVDEL RECEIVED GOOD PRESS COVERAGE.

2. UPON ARRIVAL WASHINGTON, DC, AND AFTER CONSULTING WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN, SOVDEL DECIDED EXTEND STAY FROM JULY 13 TO JULY 16 IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER DEPT INVITATION. ACCORDINGLY, COM INCLUDED NEW ORLEANS IN ITINERARY.

3. IN BOSTON (JULY 6-8), MOSCOW DEPUTY MAYOR ISAEV

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ADDRESSED CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, AND SOVDEL ATTENDED ANNUAL

INTERNATIONAL BREAKFAST, ORGANIZED BY SCI AND COM.

4. IN HOUSTON (JULY 8-11) SOVDEL MET WITH MAYOR HOFHEINZ, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT AND FORMER MAYOR WELCH, AND HOUSTON CITY PLANNERS, AND ALSO VISITED RICE UNIVERSITY, JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, AND A NEARBY RANCH.

5. IN DALLAS (JULY 11-12) AND NEW ORLEANS (JULY 12-14), SOVDEL MET RESPECTIVELY WITH MAYORS WES WISE AND MOON LANDRIEU, (LATTER NEWLY ELECTED COM PRESIDENT).

6. IN NEW YORK CITY (JULY 14-16), SOVDEL HAD CORDIAL MEETING/DISCUSSION WITH CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PAUL O'DWYER, AFTER WHICH O'DWYER TRANSMITTED LETTER (CONTENTS UNKNOWN) FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOVIET JEWERY (NCSJ) TO SOVDEL. SECOND LETTER FROM NCSJ, TRANSMITTED TO SOVDEL VIA ESCORT-INTERPRETER, CONTAINED DETAILED COMPLAINTS ABOUT TREATMENT OF JEWS IN THREE CITIES REPRESENTED BY SOVIET MAYORS: MOSCOW, MINSK, AND RYAZAN. NCSJ ALSO ASKED TO MEET WITH SOVDEL BUT SOVDEL DECLINED. (DEPUTY MAYOR ISAEV REPORTEDLY WAS SLIGHTLY UPSET OVER CONTACT WITH NCSJ).

7. DEPT CONSIDERS THIS VISIT USEFUL IN THAT IT AFFORDED HIGHLY PLACED SOVIET MUNICIPAL LEADERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH CONCERNS OF LARGE US CITIES (AT COM CONFERENCE) AND OBSERVE FIRST HAND AMERICAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AT LOCAL LEVEL. KISSINGER

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